## **Article - Local Government**

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- (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (2) "Department" means the State Department of Assessments and Taxation.
  - (3) "Governing authority" means:
    - (i) the governing body of a county or municipality;
    - (ii) a board of directors; or
- (iii) any other body that governs an entity to which this section applies.
  - (b) This section applies to the following governmental entities:
    - (1) counties;
    - (2) municipalities;
    - (3) bicounty or multicounty agencies;
    - (4) public authorities;
    - (5) special taxing districts; and
- (6) any other political subdivision or unit of a political subdivision of the State.
  - (c) Each governmental entity shall have a resident agent who is:
    - (1) a resident of the State;
    - (2) a Maryland corporation; or
    - (3) an officer of the governmental entity.

- (d) A governmental entity shall designate or change its resident agent by filing for record with the Department:
- (1) a certification of the person who the charter of the governmental entity authorizes to accept service of process for the governmental entity; or
- (2) absent a charter designation, a certified copy of a resolution of the governmental entity's governing authority that authorizes the designation.
- (e) (1) A governmental entity may change the address for its resident agent by filing for record with the Department a statement of the change signed by the chair or other principal officer of the governing authority of the governmental entity.
- (2) A resident agent whose address changes may notify the Department by filing for record with the Department a statement of the change signed by or for the resident agent.
- (f) A resident agent may resign by filing a statement of resignation with the Department.
  - (g) There is no fee for a filing under this section.
- (h) A designation, change of agent, change of address, or resignation is effective as provided in the Corporations and Associations Article for a corporate resident agent.
- (i) (1) Service of process on the resident agent of a governmental entity constitutes effective service of process under the Maryland Rules on the governmental entity in an action brought against the governmental entity.
- (2) Any notice required by law to be served by personal service on the resident agent or any other agent or officer of a governmental entity may be served in the manner provided by the Maryland Rules that relate to service of process on governmental entities.
- (3) Service under the Maryland Rules is equivalent to personal service on the resident agent or other agent or officer of a governmental entity.

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